

## Report of Accomplishments

**Fiscal Year 2005**

**Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation District**

**Address 98 B South 200 West**

**Rupert, ID 83350**

**Telephone Number 208-436-4777 ext. 3**

**Point of Contact Ron Holton, Chair**

**Counties Served Minidoka**

**Legislative District(s) 26**



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### Function or Conservation District Mission

To deliver natural resource technology and education, to promote wise use of natural resources and to promote management practices to ensure a sustainable natural resource base for present and future generations of producers in Minidoka County.

### Natural Resource Improvements Summary

#### A & B Well Closure Project

- Closure of irrigation drain wells to improve water quality
- 87 producers participated
- 10,000 acres converted from gravity to sprinkler irrigation
- \$2.5 million dollar Congressional appropriation and NRCS EQIP support



One of the last drain wells to be closed.

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### Conservation District Priority # 1 Water Quality

- 4,250 acres converted from gravity irrigation to sprinklers. This conservation practice along with irrigation water management eliminates run off from the fields and potential sediment loading to the Snake River. The conversions also allowed more than 55 injection wells to be closed thus protecting the aquifer from contaminants.

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### Conservation District Priority #2 District Operations

- District supervisors met with elected officials to discuss funding needs and update them on cost-sharing programs in Minidoka County.
- Supervisors attended the annual IASCD conference to receive training and information necessary to carry out effective District programs.
- Supervisors attended the Legislative Luncheon to discuss funding needs and conservation concerns with local legislators.
- Supervisors attended Spring and Fall Division meetings to keep abreast of current developments affecting district operations and legislative issues that may require board action.

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### Conservation District Priority # 3 Irrigated Cropland

- Irrigation efficiency resulted in a savings of 3,754 acre-feet through conversions to more efficient irrigation systems.
- 32 conservation plans were developed and installed on 6,180 acres of irrigated cropland. The plans included the following Best Management Practices (BMPs): crop rotation, nutrient and pest management, erosion practices to reduce wind erosion, and improved irrigation water management.
- The conversions and application of conservation plans resulted in a reduction of 20,334 tons of soils from irrigation erosion.

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### Conservation District Priority # 4 Animal Waste Management

- Four comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans were written and applied to approximately 400 acres.

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### Information & Education/ Public Outreach

- Published quarterly newsletters and mailed to 500 Minidoka producers and businesses. Newsletters include information on conservation programs, accomplishments and special District projects.
- Provided 2 education scholarships to Minico High School Students
- Provided 2 scholarships for students to attend the Natural Resources Workshop
- Provided 6 scholarships to 4-H Club members to attend the Know Your Government conference.
- Sponsor an annual speech and poster contest to help educate our youth on conservation practices and the importance of conservation of our natural resources.
- Provided funds to Idaho Ag in the Classroom to help with their educational efforts.
- Provided a donation to the Idaho Weed Awareness Campaign to help in the fight against noxious weeds.

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### Community Collaboration & Coordination

- Member/Sponsor of the Mid-Snake R C & D
- Member of the Lake Walcott WAG
- Sponsored a seminar in conjunction with Idaho Power for 45 landowners explaining how energy and water savings may be realized through properly designed and installed irrigation systems.
- Hosted a tour for the Final Injection Well Closing Ceremony, attended by 60 people, including congressional staff, local media, and local producers.
- Minidoka SWCD celebrated its 50 Anniversary in conjunction with the tour.
- Sponsored one supervisor to attend the Leadership Idaho Agriculture Program

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**Synopsis of Assistance Coordinated for Constituents with Conservation Partners** - to plan, design and implement best management practices to protect, enhance, and conserve Idaho's renewable natural resources.

| Source                            | Purpose/Benefit     | Funded Amount |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Minidoka County                   | District Operations | \$ 3,500.00   |
| State of Idaho                    | District Operations | \$ 9,452.55   |
| A & B Congressional Appropriation | Water Quality       | \$ 105,617.95 |
| USDA Farm Programs                | Conservation        | \$ 669,733.00 |
| Total                             |                     | \$ 788,303.50 |